Jobs for Degree/Diploma holders

†1765. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students in the field of Science and Technology in the country who get diploma and BE degree every year;

(b) the number of diploma/degree holders who get jobs every year; and

(c) the action plan of Government to give employment to all these students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Improved Gene of Rice by Delhi University

1766. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is *a* fact that the scientists of the Department of Molecular Biology, Delhi University, have developed improved genes in a rice plant;

(b) if so, the details of reasearch carried out; and

(c) in what manner it helps in increasing the yield per acre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The scientists of the Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi have not developed any improved genes in rice plant. Rather they have characterized a rice gene *OSISAP1 (Oryza sativa* subspecies *indica* stress-associated protein gene 1) and introduced it into model test plant tobacco for investigation. The expression of this gene was found to be induced by several stress stimuli. The gene has been shown to confer cold, dehydration and salt-stress tolerance in tobacco at seedling stage in experimental laboratory conditions.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.